



A place where families and businesses thrive.

**CITY OF FOREST GROVE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES Approved by Commission on January 23, 2020.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Nieves called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Sustainability Commission Present:

Amber Nieves

Fallon Harris

Tabitha Merten

Johanna Peeters Weem

Robin Lindsley

Kenneth Cobleigh

Absent, Excused: Lilly Meek

Council Liaison: Elena Uhing, Absent and Excused

Staff: Elizabeth Stover, Program Coordinator; Paul Downey, Finance Director

Guests: Jonie Blinman and Ben Bekker, Auric Energy

1. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS: None.

2. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS: Harris reports that in the spring, community gardens will be lacking community service hours to get the work done. Looking to the Commission for suggestions how to support these efforts after March. School gardens are still taking seed campaign donations. Lindsley: Food Web seed swap is February 29, at Saint Bede. Nieves: PlanetCon is on January 12. Cobleigh: Returning to college to pursue a degree in Botany and Land Management; his studies will not interfere with his role on the Commission.

3. CONSENT AGENDA: Lindsley: Change “and” to “an”. Nieves moved to approve the minutes, Harris second; unanimous.

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: Delete #8, Free Food Grant. Nieves moved to approve the minutes, Harris second; unanimous.

5. SOLAR PANEL PRESENTATION: Jonie Blinman and Ben Bekker from Auric Energy provided a video and PowerPoint presentation to the Commission, discussing:

- Credentials of the presenters, history of the company, case studies, cost comparisons, and Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) rebates.
- Lifetime of a solar cell.
- Upcoming technology.
- How families fund solar panels.
- How to sell to landlords to benefit renters.

6. MINI-GRANT REQUEST: Sustainability Commission Earth Day Fair & Litter Clean Up event: requesting \$500. Nieves moved to approve, Cobleigh second; unanimous.

7. COMMUNITY CUPBOARD: Peeters Weem presented. Community Cupboard is a free resource at the high school for students in need of food or hygiene products. Sixty percent of students at the high school are on the free or reduced lunch program. Started by Lyndi Stone from Pacific University and supported by the high school's Associated Student Body. The Cupboard is funded through private and business donations and food drives. The grand opening was on 12/12/19. It is being discussed how to keep the funding sustainable.

8. FREE FOOD GRANT: Deleted.

9. BYLAWS: Nieves completed the Sustainability Commission bylaws based on input from previous meetings. Harris offered to meet with Peeters Weem to discuss the language in the bylaws. Harris moves to approve, Merten second; unanimous.

10. COUNCIL LIAISON/STAFF REPORT: Presented by Paul Downey, Finance Director.

- Council appointed a new City Councilor, Mariana Valenzuela, who will be sworn in on January 13, 2020.
- Boards and Commissions (B&C):
 - B&C interviews are ongoing; annual reception is February 13.
 - There are discussions regarding the future of the Public Safety Advisory Commission (PSAC).
 - New B&C applicants will be contacted in January.
- Metro revised solid waste allocation, to 99,000 lbs from 75,000 lbs.
 - Looking at a Cornelius location for a west side transfer station.
 - Starting a community engagement program for this proposed location.
 - This transfer station would have a range of services that are not offered at the current Forest Grove facility.
- Open House for the Police Station Facility was on November 21; public engaged with the architects and staff regarding the facility.
- Annual Town Meeting will be January 25, 2020.

11. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:

- Nieves to write a letter to Council summarizing the Light & Power and Auric Energy presentations. Commission to review and discuss.
- "Did You Know..." articles to advertise and educate on incentives and programs offered.
- Sustainability Commission Work Plan review.
- Cobleigh status update on CEP mini-grants.
- Discuss materials from Devon Downeysmith regarding Latino Summit.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Nieves adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Stover, Program Coordinator
City of Forest Grove

Approved by the Forest Grove Sustainability Commission: Date: 01/23/2020